

**Scientist Recruitment Initiative  
RWU Proposal**

**Name of Proposal Contact:** Dr. John A. Stanturf  
**RWU Title:** Disturbance and Management of Southern Pine Ecosystems  
**Phone number:** 662-686-3164 (FY 2000; 706-559-4320 FY 2001)  
**E-mail address:** jstanturf@fs.fed.us  
**Mailing address:** 320 Green Street  
Athens, GA 30602-2044

**Name and contact points of proposed position supervisor:** Dr. John A. Stanturf

**Position title/discipline of proposed position:** Research Forester or Research Ecologist

**Brief description of proposed RWU/graduate research supported through the position:**

The Forest Service supervisor and student would develop a research program to provide needed information on the influence of natural disturbance regimes and their relationships to anthropogenic disturbances in southern pine and associated ecosystems. Residential development, recreation, infrastructure development, and other activities have not been well integrated into an overall theory or framework for disturbance assessment, response planning, or management. Two areas requiring concerted attention that could be the basis for a dissertation topic include the issue of reducing and managing woody fuel loads in fragmented forests at the urban/wildland interface; and traditional season of prescribed burning does not coincide with the natural fire regimes under which southern pine ecosystems evolved, hence the ecosystem-level impacts are largely unknown. The Southern Research Station has been an acknowledged leader in fire ecology and management, from the standpoint of effects research. Expertise in this area, however, is thin and aging. The RWU and Station view this position as an opportunity to fill behind the scientist working in Coastal Plain pine ecosystems, who plans to retire within the next two years. WO staff has acknowledged this as a research priority for the Unit in the recently approved RWUD.

**Desirable academic qualifications of the student recruit:** Masters (preferred) or Bachelors degree in Silviculture, Forest Ecology, or related field. The goal of the position would be to complete a Ph.D. program prior to conversion to a Research Forester or Research Ecologist.

**Colleges/universities to be contacted for potential recruits/applicants:** University of Georgia, Clemson University, Auburn University, and University of Tennessee (to extend beyond those already identified in the Service-wide multicultural workforce initiatives

**Potential colleges/universities to provide graduate education:** University of Georgia, Clemson University, Auburn University, and University of Tennessee have programs and faculty that focus on fire effects research. Dr. Stanturf, Project Leader, has a cooperative faculty appointment at Auburn University and other unit scientists have adjunct appointments at several universities. One advantage to either the University of Georgia or Clemson University would be that the RWU has offices on campus. At UGA, the student will be able to interact on a daily basis not only with unit scientists and staff, but with scientists from two other RWUs (insects and diseases and recreation) whose scientists are interested in fire effects and the urban/wildland interface.

**Brief description of the community environment (including housing, transportation, and recreation opportunities, ethnic breakdown):** Athens sits in the Piedmont of Georgia, conveniently located between the mountains and the coastal plain of Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Athens is 65 miles drive from Atlanta and is the smallest geographic county and the 14th most populous in the state. Athens-Clarke County serves Northeast Georgia as a regional center for employment, commerce and recreation. The 1999 population is estimated at 97,662. USAir commuter service to Charlotte, NC is available at Athens-Ben Epps Airport. Public transit is provided by the Athens Transit System and downtown bus station is served by Greyhound and Southeastern Stages. Since Athens is home to the University of Georgia, residents enjoy a wide variety of cultural events. Athens-Clarke County was the site of the rhythmic gymnastics, soccer and volleyball in the 1996 Olympics. The 313 acres State Botanical Garden is a horticultural preserve set aside for the study and enjoyment of plants and nature. Also in Athens is the Georgia Museum of Art, established in 1945. The permanent collection has more than 7,000 works of art. Ethnic diversity is approximately 71% white, 26% black and 2% Hispanic. (Further information <http://www.dca.state.ga.us/snapshots/p2.asp/county=Clarke>)

**Proposed temporary housing options for the student while working away from the campus (for example while working at the lab during summer months):** The Forestry Sciences Lab is on the campus of the University of Georgia, which greatly facilitates work with students on that campus. Similarly, unit staff is located in the forestry building on the Clemson University campus. Off-campus unfurnished one-bedroom apartments are available which average \$300-500 per month. If a student's research is located elsewhere, support can be provided through research funds for temporary field housing or travel.

**Brief explanation of how this proposal supports the scientist recruitment initiative:** This proposal directly supports the recruitment initiative because it will train a scientist for an existing position within the Station, which will become vacant within the next two years due to retirement. We have not identified any candidates for this position.

Station priority of proposal: Priority 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Priority 2 \_\_\_\_\_

I understand acceptance of this proposal will result in a commitment to hire the student into a full-time permanent scientist position at my unit upon successful completion of the program.

/s/ John A. Stanturf      Project Leader      6/13/2000  
/s/      Station Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date